



Tree Mortality Task Force Monthly Update

January 27, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- High Hazard Zones have been updated with the 2016 ADS data and are being posted to the tree mortality viewer. In addition, the data is also available on the TMTF website under Reports & Deliverables (<http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/reports>).
- The RWG continues to plan the upcoming insurance workshop on February 9, 2017. A couple of the presenters have suggested that RSVP's might be a good idea to gauge the size of the group and understand what counties/entities will be present so that they can best address the needs/demographics of the attendees. The Counties have developed a list of questions and issues to help advise the presenter and have been asked to RSVP. A workshop notification flyer has been developed and will be circulated through the TMTF. A workshop agenda is forthcoming.

CURRENT TREE MORTALITY CONDITIONS

- 102,000,000 dead trees since 2010

MAIN TASK FORCE REPORT

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, February 13 from 1:00-3:00 P.M.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Forest Health and Resilience

(Pete Cafferata/ Stewart McMorrow)

- A revised draft white paper titled "Recommendations for Comprehensive Sierra Nevada Ecological Restoration" authored by John Amodio and Larry Camp continues to be reviewed by the FHRWG. The main goal of this paper is to achieve robust implementation of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Watershed Improvement Program, supported by enhanced efforts from relevant state and federal agencies. The authors are attempting to seek compromise on outstanding comments; we are attempting to have a completed document by February 1st.
- We have developed a draft FHRWG charter statement that provides a process to follow for addressing issues when there is a failure to achieve consensus. The draft was discussed at our January meeting and a revised document has been circulated



to the working group.

- We have heard two presentations at our last two meetings on use of LiDAR and hyperspectral imaging for monitoring conifer moisture stress and improved land management that can result in greater forest health and resiliency.
- Emily Meriam, CAL FIRE-FRAP has produced a final map and accompanying Excel spreadsheet overlaying tree mortality areas with conifer seed zones. This work will inform cone collection and speculative sowing of reforestation seedlings. It consists of overlaying GIS data for tree seed zones, 500-foot elevation bands, and forest type vegetation maps in the 10 county high hazard area. Following review by the TMTF co-leaders, these produces will be released it to the public.
- Stewart McMorrow continues to report on reforestation strategies for the high tree mortality areas. He has placed an initial seedling sowing order based on seed zone mortality expressed as a percentage of total tree mortality, ordering 130,000 seedlings to be available in winter of 2017/2018 for non-industrial landowners to purchase. Additional seedling orders will be placed by CAL FIRE to assist private landowners with reforestation in future years. Additionally, CAL FIRE CFIP funding is available to help non-industrial landowners replant their forestlands with conifer seedlings. A series of CFIP workshops emphasizing reforestation will be held this year; the first one will in Auberry on February 11th (a flyer for the workshop was widely distributed to the TMTF). Other efforts include working with the CAL FIRE Communications Program staff on a campaign for reforestation, and having the next issue of the Forestland Steward Newsletter address reforestation.

Mapping and Monitoring

(Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)

- High Hazard Zones have been updated with the 2016 ADS data and are being posted to the tree mortality viewer. In addition, the data is also available on the TMTF website under Reports & Deliverables (<http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/reports>).
- At the January TMTF meeting there was interest in releasing project information for all tree removal projects in the Tree Mortality Viewer, not just completed projects. The project tracking application is being updated to add a check box for projects to indicate if the responsible agency agrees to release a project to the public viewer. We think this strategy addresses both confidentiality as well as transparency.
- Analysis of potential storage sites were completed for Amador County. MMWG members are now working on a similar analysis for El Dorado County.



Regulations

(Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)

- The RWG continues to plan the upcoming insurance workshop (see information below). A couple of the presenters have suggested that RSVP's might be a good idea to gauge the size of the group and understand what counties/entities will be present so that they can best address the needs/demographics of the attendees. The Counties have developed a list of questions and issues to help advise the presenter and have been asked to RSVP. A workshop notification flyer has been developed and will be circulated through the TMTF. A workshop agenda is forthcoming.
- The RWG continues to monitor active storage site locations. There are 14 sites that have been identified as active. The Mapping and Monitoring group has developed a spreadsheet that needs to be populated with new information and reconciled. The spreadsheet has been circulated to the RWG with instruction to populate the sheet. Once completed the information will be included into the TMTF web viewer.
- The RWG discussed the CAL FIRE equipment agreement. The agreement was written as a draft and each county may make suggested revisions to the template when they decide to use the equipment.
- The Landowner Assistance Sub-Working Group (LASWG) under the Resource Allocation WG has been tasked with redirecting their focus on providing a detailed review of landowners needs as they struggle to address the tree mortality impacts. The LASWG needs the ability to reach deeper into the TMTF membership to help meet the new direction they have been provided. To meet this need, the Regulations WG, Public Outreach WG, Forest Health WG and Market Development WG were asked to provide either a working group leader to participate or a designee with the LASWG. Matthew solicited the RWG for any interest in participation in the LASWG.

Utilization – Bioenergy

(Angie Lottes/Sandy Goldberg)

- “BioRAM2 (Order 9): PG&E contracted with Wheelabrator Shasta for 34 MW using bilateral negotiation, which is allowed under CPUC Resolution E-4805. This contract includes the fuel requirements set forth in SB 859, use of HHZ material each year and “sustainable forest fuel” for a majority of the remaining fuel. The CPUC will have to draft, finalize, and vote on a Resolution to approve the contract.



- EPIC funding (Order 11): The California Energy Commission has awarded \$1 million to Humboldt State University for their application “California Biopower Impact Project” under Group 3: Net Atmospheric Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Forest-derived Woody Biomass and Field Residue Utilization for Energy Generation through Grant Funding Opportunity 16-306, Addressing Air Quality and Environment Impacts of Conventional and Emerging Electricity Sector Technologies in Changing Climate.

Public Outreach

(Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- The Public Outreach Working Group has been working with the Forest Health and Resilience Group to identify current landowner assistance programs and strategize efforts to educate the public on the programs and services available. The group identified several private landowner assistance funding programs including the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The group hopes to continue to collect information on the various programs and then work towards educating the public.
- The POWG is also working on setting up a subcommittee of its members to work with the counties and develop a 2017 legislative tour schedule and plan.

APPROVED CALIFORNIA DISASTER ACT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- **Approved CDAA Applications:** El Dorado County, Fresno County, Madera County, Mariposa County, Tulare County, Tuolumne County, Big Creek School District, Chawanakee Unified School District, Curtis Creek School District, Tuolumne Utilities District, Twain Harte Community Services District, Columbia Public Cemetery District, Pine Ridge Elementary School District, Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District, Amador County, Placer County, Calaveras County, Halcumb Cemetery District, Amador County Water Agency
- **Submitted CDAA Applications:** Calaveras Public Utility District, El Dorado Irrigation District, & Belleview Elementary School District.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne, Nevada County.
- **County Tree Mortality Task Forces:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne.



TREE MORTALITY RESPONSE FUNDING

On Monday, June 27th, Governor Brown signed the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year (FY) Budget. The 16-17 FY Budget includes a one-time increase of \$11 million General Fund dollars for CAL FIRE to assist in the removal and disposal of trees in high hazard areas. This includes:

- \$6 million for the California Conservation Corps and grants to local entities, including local government, fire districts, local conservation corps, tribal entities, and fire safe councils, to provide support to local efforts to remove hazardous trees that pose a threat to public health and safety.
- \$5 million to support additional miscellaneous equipment, personnel overtime for foresters, hand crews, engine companies, and heavy equipment operators, for hazardous tree removal and fuels reduction efforts.

The 16-17 FY Budget also includes:

- \$10 million one-time funding in grants from the State Responsibility Area fund, with \$5 million of that being dedicated for tree mortality related work.
- The Budget also includes \$31.6 million for the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide assistance to counties through the California Disaster Assistance Act.



EQUIPMENT ALLOCATION AND TRAINING

| CAL FIRE Tree Mortality Equipment Allocation: | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| County Name (CAL FIRE Unit): | Delivered | Kern (KRN) | Tulare (TUU) | Fresno (FKU) | Madera (MMU) | Mariposa (MMU) | Tuolumne (TCU) | Calavaras (TCU) | Amador (AEU) | Eldorado (AEU) | Placer (NEU) |
| Burner Module A (2): | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 Fire Box (burners) | 6 | | | 3 | 3 | | | | | | |
| 1 Track Loader | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 1 Weel Loader | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Burner Module B (2): | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 Fire Box (burners) | 4 | | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | |
| 1 Track Loader | 2 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 1 Wheel Loader | 2 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Single Resources: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Masticator (2) | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Track Chipper (10) | 10 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | |
| Tow Chipper (6) | 6 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | |
| Sawmill (5) | 5 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Reforestation Workshop planned for February 11, 2017 in Auberry.
- Insurance Workshop planned for February 9, 2017 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Natural Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

TREE MORTALITY RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for Stakeholders

www.treetaskforce.org

California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for the Public

www.prepareforbarkbeetle.org

California's Tree Mortality Viewer

egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer/

United States Forest Service-California Tree Mortality Information

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/CATreeMortality>